

DEPARTMENT OF  
**PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS**

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KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO, GOVERNOR

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RICHARD L. STALDER, SECRETARY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**La. Leads Nation in Number of Certified Corrections Professionals**  
***LSP Nurse Becomes First Certified Corrections Nurse Manager***

(Baton Rouge) The American Correctional Association (ACA) recently recognized the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections – Corrections Services for once again leading the nation in the number of certified corrections professionals. The recognition came during the ACA's Winter Conference in Tampa, Florida January 20-24, 2007.

Seth Smith, Assistant Director of Nursing at Louisiana State Penitentiary, became the first Certified Corrections Nurse Manager from Louisiana, a newly designated category by the ACA. He was one of only nine people to take and pass the initial exam. Smith, a 7-year state employee, was awarded certification during ACA's Winter Conference. He also earned the designation of Certified Corrections Manager in 2004.

According to the ACA, Louisiana has 253 certified corrections professionals – that's nearly half of all ACA certified corrections professionals in the United States. There are different categories in which employees can certify. Below is a breakdown of Louisiana's total.

Certified Corrections Executive – 18  
Certified Corrections Manager – 26  
Certified Corrections Supervisor – 25  
Certified Corrections Officer – 183  
Certified Corrections Nurse Manager – 1

The ACA's Corrections Certification Program is designed to advance the overall knowledge level of practitioners in the corrections field and to promote the capabilities of corrections professionals to the public.

"The number of certified corrections professionals coupled with system-wide ACA accreditation for our institutions and probation and parole districts, positions Louisiana as a leader in Corrections," said DPS&C Secretary Richard L. Stalder. "I'm very proud of Seth and all other employees who strive to make our institutions more efficient and safer for inmates, staff and the general public."

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